

BLACKBURN  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL

# REPORT

FOR 1931

C. W. BRADLEY,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH





Blackburn  
Rural District Council.

---

*Medical Officer's*

**REPORT**

*Year Ending December 31st, 1938.*

---

**C. M. BRADLEY,**

*Medical Officer of Health.*

---

Rothwells, Printers, Blackburn.



# *Blackburn Rural District Council*

YEAR 1938.

---

Chairman: ... .. A. E. TROOP, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman: ... .. H. RYDEN, Esq.

---

## **COUNCILLORS:**

Parish.	Councillor.
Balderstone ... ..	T. A. SIMM.
Billington ... ..	Rev. D. W. HOLT, B.A.
Clayton-le-Dale ... ..	T. S. AINSWORTH.
Dinckley ... ..	J. W. BREWER.
Eccleshill... ..	D. SMITH.
Livesey ... ..	W. GRIMSHAW.
Mellor ... ..	E. L. HEYWORTH.
Osbaldeston ... ..	A. F. WALSH.
Pleasington ... ..	R. YATES.
Ramsgreave ... ..	J. SEED.
Salesbury... ..	W. H. WIDDERS.
Tockholes ... ..	E. MILLER.
Wilpshire ... ..	H. RYDEN.
Yate and Pickup Bank ... ..	J. YATES, J.P.

---

Clerk and Financial Officer ... .. J. B. McCLURG, F.C.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health: ... .. C. M. BRADLEY, L.R.C.P.,  
L.R.C.S.

Sanitary and Meat Inspector: H. ECCLESTON, Cert.R.San.I.,  
A.M.Inst.S.E.

45 King Street,  
Blackburn,

June, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Blackburn Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1938, on the health and sanitary conditions obtaining in the fourteen townships comprising the Blackburn Rural District.

**Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.**

Area (acres) ... ..	19,472
Population—Census, 1931 ... ..	11,232
Estimated—1938... ..	12,520

Physical Features and General Character of the Area—The Ordnance Datum varies from 150 to 1,050, with a sub-soil chiefly composed of clay:—

Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931)	2,827
End of 1938 (according to Rate Books) ... ..	3,457
Rateable Value ... ..	£66,946
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate ... ..	£262 (net)

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are Agriculture, Cotton Weaving, Cotton Spinning and Paper Making. These occupations do not appear to have any influence on the public health of persons employed therein. Many workers in industries other than agriculture reside outside the District, and of the residents in the District many are employed outside the District.

**Vital Statistics for the Year 1938.**

	Total	Males	Females
Live Births—Legitimate .....	127 ...	59 ...	68
Illegitimate .....	4 ...	1 ...	3
	—	—	—
Total.....	131 ...	60 ...	71

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.4.

	Total	Males	Females
Still Births . . . . .	7	5	2
Rate per 1,000 Total Births ...	50		

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths ... ..	145	58	87
Death Rate ... ..	11.5.		

Number of Women dying, in or in consequence of childbirth:—

From Sepsis ... ..	Nil
Other causes ... ..	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	38
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births... ..	39
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	27
„ Measles (all ages) ... ..	1
„ Whooping Cough ... ..	Nil
„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ... ..	Nil

# Rates per 1,000 of the Population,

	Per 1,000 of Population.				1,000 births.	
	Birth-rate	Death-rate from			Live and Still Births	Rate of Deaths under 1 year
		Death-rate	Tuberculosis	Death-rate from Cancer		
		Death-rate	Respiratory System		Maternal Mortality Rate	
Mean of 5 years—1933-37	11.0	...	0.37	1.45	4.35	44
1937 .....	10.4	...	.55	1.34	7.57	30
1938 .....	10.4	...	0.23	2.15	Nil	38
Increase or decrease in 1938 on :—						
Five years' average	—0.6	...	+0.6....—0.14..	+0.70....—4.35....—4.06	..	—6
Previous Year...	Nil	...	+1.2....—0.32....+0.81....—7.57....—6.99	..	..	+8



For England and Wales during 1938 the birth-rate was 15.1, and the death-rate 11.6, the infantile death-rate being 53 per 1,000 births.

The environment and occupational conditions do not appear to be in any way prejudicial to health.

### **General Provision of Health Services in the Area.**

The Council have not made any separate provision for hospital accommodation; the population of the Rural District not being sufficiently large to warrant any. For cases of Smallpox, hospital accommodation is provided at the Blackburn Corporation Smallpox Hospital, Finnington—one bed being available, for which a retaining fee is paid. For other infectious diseases, arrangements exist for acceptance of cases as required in the Blackburn County Borough Fever Hospital and Chorley Joint Hospital.

There is no hospital accommodation in the District for Tuberculosis, Maternity Cases or for Children. No institutional provision is made for unmarried mothers and illegitimate infants. For homeless children, provision is made by the Blackburn and District Orphanage at Wilpshire. For Maternity and Child Welfare, a Centre is provided at Feniscowles by the Lancashire County Council, and this is open each Tuesday from 2—4 p.m. There is also a similar Centre at Whalley available for the inhabitants of Billington.

Day Nurseries, School Clinics, Tuberculosis Dispensaries or Venereal Diseases Treatment Centres are not provided in the District, but the following arrangements are made by the Lancashire County Council for cases of suspected Venereal Disease:—

- (i) Any Medical Practitioner practising in the area of the County Council can obtain at the cost of the County Council, a scientific report on any material which the medical practitioner may submit from a patient suspected to be suffering from Venereal Disease.
- (ii) Persons suffering from Venereal Disease can obtain treatment at various hospitals in the area.

- (iii) Medical Practitioners are supplied with approved Arsenobenzine Compound for the treatment and prevention of Venereal Disease.

There is no charge to Medical Practitioners or their patients for any of these services.

The necessary outfits for collecting material for examination from persons suspected to be suffering from Venereal Disease are supplied free to the medical practitioners and reports are obtained thereon.

Ambulance facilities for infectious cases include the removal of patients in an Infectious Hospital Motor Ambulance, usually that of the Hospital to which the cases are removed. Private arrangements have been made for the removal of non-infectious cases and accident cases.

The Townships of Mellor, Balderstone and Osbaldeston are served by a Nurse under a local voluntary Committee, whilst the Townships of Ramsgreave, Wilpshire, Clayton-le-Dale and Salesbury are similarly served. Livesey and Pleasington are served by Blackburn Nurses' Homes; Eccleshill, Yate and Pickup Bank and Tockholes by Darwen Nursing Association; and Billington by Whalley District Nursing Association.

The number of midwives on the County Council Register at the 31st December, 1938, was 4, and these were actually practising.

No local scheme has been prepared by this Council in regard to the supply of food and milk for expectant and nursing mothers and of milk for infants, this matter being in the hands of the County Health Committee.

In cases of suspected Puerperal Pyrexia, the County Council supply outfits for collecting specimens, and these are sent to a Public Health Laboratory for examination and report. This is all done at no expense to the Medical Practitioner or the patient. In addition, the services of a Consultant and a Trained Nurse are supplied at the cost of the County Council. Drs. R. Y. Aitken and J. Ramsay are the consultants appointed by the County Council.

Co-operation with the medical and ancillary services of the National Health Insurance is by cases of accident and severe sickness being accepted in the Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary or the Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn.

**Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

**WATER.**

Mellor Brook District is supplied from the Manchester Corporation mains. Other parts of the District are supplied from the Blackburn Corporation and Darwen Corporation mains. The remaining parts derive the supply from private reservoirs and wells. There is no liability to plumbo-solvent action, and the water is regularly analysed by the Authorities from whom this Council obtain a supply. With regard to the water obtained from private reservoirs and wells, samples are obtained by the Sanitary Inspector and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for examination.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

It has not been found necessary to take action with regard to the pollution of rivers or streams.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

The various Sewage Disposal Works in the District have been under observation and have worked satisfactorily. There are seven separate Sewage disposal Works in the area, and generally speaking, the method of treatment adopted is by preliminary sedimentation, septic tanks and circular sprinkler filtration, the final effluent passing through humus tanks before discharge. Improvements were carried out at the Wilpshire Sewage Works by the construction of three circular filters. There were also numerous improvements to other works. The character of the drainage (when practicable) is by the separate system. 14 drains have been tested during the year.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**

The following information relates to the accommodation at the end of 1938:—

Privy Middens ... ..	Nil
Pail Closets ... ..	788
Fresh Water Closets ... ..	2292
Waste Water Closets ... ..	81
No. of Moveable Ash-bins ... ..	1800

Conversions during the year 1938:—

Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets ... ..	5
No. of Houses at which moveable ash-bins have been substituted for fixed receptacles ... ..	Nil

## SCAVENGING.

In the Townships of Balderstone, Billington, Clayton-le-Dale, Eccleshill, Livesey, Mellor, Osbaldeston, Pleasington, Rams-greave, Salesbury, Tockholes, Wilpshire and Yate and Pickup Bank scavenging is done by the Rural District Council under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. In the remainder of the District it is done by the owners and occupiers of houses. The refuse is deposited on the land, there being no refuse destructor.

## SANITARY INSPECTION.

33 informal notices were served on owners or occupiers, and several nuisances were abated without service of informal notices by reason of the Sanitary Inspector calling the attention of the persons responsible at the time of his visit.

Defective Chimney Stacks ... ..	5
Defective Roofs ... ..	18
Defective Pointing ... ..	27
Choked Drains ... ..	7
Defective Yard Surfaces ... ..	8
Defective Floors ... ..	11
Broken Plaster ... ..	19
Defective Ashes Receptacles ... ..	28
Defective Slop Pipes ... ..	4
Defective Rain Water Pipes ... ..	7
Defective Windows and Broken Sash Cords ... ..	14
Damp Walls ... ..	27
Absence of Handrails ... ..	4
Defective Closet Accommodation ... ..	19

Premises visited and visits to Works in progress:—

Inspection of Farmsteads ... ..	936
Visits to Works in progress ... ..	159
Visits and Re-visits to Houses ... ..	263
Travelling Vans Inspected ... ..	8
Visits to Scavenging Contractors ... ..	144
Visits to Refuse Tips ... ..	148
Slaughter-house Inspections ... ..	97
Smoke Observations ... ..	24
Visits to Schools ... ..	40
Visits to Factories and Workshops ... ..	39
Visits to Fried Fish Shops ... ..	6

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

It was not found necessary to take any legal proceedings as a result of smoke observations.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

It has not been found necessary to take any action in regard to houses let in lodgings, offensive trades, etc.

The Sanitary conditions of the schools in the District are mainly satisfactory and those persons responsible for their maintenance are advised to take note of anything which might affect the health and well-being of the scholars. I again draw attention to the fact that the water supply at Tockholes School might be improved.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total—including numbers given separately under (b)	39
(i) By the Local Authority ... ..	Nil
(ii) By other Local Authorities ... ..	Nil
(iii) By other bodies and persons ... ..	39
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—	
(i) By the Local Authority ... ..	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons ... ..	Nil

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

1 (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	185
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	263
2 (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	185
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... ..	263
3 Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation which were closed after intimation to owners ... ..	8



4	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	30
2.	Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:—	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	33
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
	A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	5
2	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By Owners ... ..	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
	B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	Nil
2	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By Owners ... ..	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
	C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	Nil
2	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	Nil
	D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
1	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil

2 Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit... ..	Nil
---	-----

### **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

#### **MILK SUPPLY.**

No cases under the administartion of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, were referred to the County Public Health Department.

The administration of the various Acts relating to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops is carried out efficiently by the Sanitary Inspector.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops are periodically inspected. No fewer than 936 inspections were made during 1938. No action has been taken by this Authority in regard to Tuberculous Milk or Tuberculous Cattle.

Three dealers' licences for pasteurised milk under the Milk (Special Designation) Orders, 1936, were issued during 1938, and no refusals or revocations of registration of retailers, or of licences for graded milk have been made during the year.

The Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows is carried out by the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

#### **MEAT.**

All animals slaughtered in the District are inspected and the marking of such carcasses in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health (Meat Regulations), 1924, has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Health. Stalls, shops stores and vehicles are regularly inspected under the provisions of the Public Health (Meat Regulations), 1924.

Number of Animals Slaughtered, and particulars of condemnations:—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle (excluding) Cows,	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ... ..	113	47	21	1075	122
Number inspected ... ..	113	47	21	1075	122
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcases condemned ... ..	2			1	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	7	9		99	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ... ..	7.9%	19%		9.3%	10.6%
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcases condemned ... ..		1			1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..		4			.8%
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis		10.6%			



## OTHER FOODS.

There are nine bakehouses in the District, and the condition of these is satisfactory.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Although the number of cases of infectious diseases has been more than those notified in 1937, there are no noteworthy facts to be recorded.

The following specimens for pathological and bacteriological examination were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester:—

Throat Swabs—Nil.

Water—11.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (SMALL-POX PREVENTION) REGULATIONS, 1917.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations were performed by me during the year.

Two schools were closed for infectious disease, namely: Measles.

## DISINFECTION.

45 houses were disinfected during the year 1938. The method of disinfection of clothing, etc., is by fumigation in the room with formaldehyde gas, except in special cases, when the Blackburn Corporation steam disinfector is used. Houses are disinfected after notification of Phthisis cases.



## TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938:—

Age—Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	F.	Pulmonary M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	F.
Years 0-1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 1-5 ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
„ 5-10 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 10-15 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 15-20 ...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
„ 20-25 ...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 25-35 ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 35-45 ...	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
„ 45-55 ...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
„ 55-65 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 & upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total.....	7	5	...	1	2	1	...	...

The notification of Tuberculosis by medical practitioners in the District is strictly observed. It has not been found necessary to take any action on account of wilful neglect or refusal to obey the requirements. There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation practised in the District.

### GENERAL.

The past year has been one of steady progress. The health of the district has been normal whilst the number of infectious diseases notified in the year, slightly increased, but there has been nothing in the nature of an epidemic.

Trade conditions do not appear to have undergone any change.

As a result of outbreaks of measles, two schools were closed for a short period.

Further borings have been carried out at Mellor and it is hoped that an adequate supply of good drinking water will be available at an early date.

The standard of milk producing continues to maintain its high level of excellence and more and more farmers are coming up to the "Accredited Milk Standard."

I must again thank the farmers for their wholehearted support and co-operation in this very necessary contribution towards the maintenance of good health in growing children. I am pleased to report that in the Blackburn Clean Milk Competition five awards were made in the "Accredited Milk Class," and six in the "Ungraded Class" to farmers producing milk in this area.

Although not taking place in the year under review, I should like to refer to the regrettable death of the Council's Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Herbert Eccleston, who during the year in spite of failing health carried out his duties in his usual unobtrusive and conscientious manner. The Council has lost a very valuable and loyal servant and I deplore greatly the loss of a highly respected colleague and personal friend.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

C. M. BRADLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.







